



Indiana Department of Education

SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS

MEMORANDUM

TO: Indiana School Superintendents and Administrators

FROM: Amanda Culhan, Indiana School Counselor Consultant aculhan@doe.in.gov

DATE: February 4, 2011

SUBJECT: National School Counseling Week

Indiana will join the country in celebrating [National School Counseling Week](#), February 7-11, 2011, to recognize the unique contributions of professional school counselors in improving student achievement and preparing all K-12 students to be productive citizens in a global economy. The Indiana School Counselor Association, Indiana Counseling Association and Indiana Association of College Admission Counseling encourage schools and parents to take a moment to recognize their local school counselor during National School Counseling Week!

School counselors play a significant role in fostering student aspirations, helping students overcome obstacles to learning, and ensuring that students are college and career ready. To do so, School Counselors provide sound guidance regarding student choices, which might include: school attendance, rigorous courses taken, diploma track selected and postsecondary and career options pursued.

Elementary School Counselors are supporting Indiana children as they learn to understand school expectations, culture, and appropriate behavior ([HEA 1419](#)), social skills, internet safety ([IC 20-30-5.5-1](#)), basic study skills, goal setting etc. They also play a significant role in career exploration and the awareness of higher education.

Middle and high school counselors help students complete Graduation Plans ([IC 20-30-4](#)), enroll in the 21st Century Scholars Program ([IC 20-33-5-15](#)), select rigorous high school courses, and prepare for college and career success.

K-12 school counselors are responsible for supporting a safe learning environment and addressing the academic, social/emotional, and behavioral needs of all students through methods of assessment, prevention, intervention, and referral per [511 IAC 4-1.5](#).

School Counselors in Indiana are doing wonderful things...

Recognition in 2010

RAMP Award: [118 schools](#) in Indiana, the most in the country, have received the **Recognized ASCA Model Program Award**, demonstrating that they are delivering a comprehensive, data-driven school counseling program. This is the nation's most prestigious award for excellence in school counseling. Twenty-two Indiana schools will receive this prestigious award in June, 2011.

Indiana Gold Star Award: 13 schools received the first-time Gold Star Award in 2010 demonstrating that they are delivering a comprehensive, data-driven school counseling program. [156 schools](#) in Indiana have received the Gold Star Award since its inception in 2004.

Statewide Initiatives Impacting School Counseling

Uniform Job Description: Per [HEA 1135](#), a uniform job description for School Counselors is to be developed by July 1, 2011 (currently under development).

School Counselor Evaluation: A team consisting of professional associations, practitioners, administrators and counselor educators developed a model evaluation tool for School Counselors. This tool is being piloted by a group of Administrators and School Counselors this semester.

Choices for Achievement: A group of school counselors have chosen to participate in this [initiative](#), which involves the assessment and documentation of their impact on student success. An online resource was developed to allow counselors to document goals, activities, and results. Statewide Data will be compiled over time.

State of School Counseling in Indiana: The latest available figures from 2008-09 indicated that Indiana's average Student/Counselor ratio was [540:1](#). The national average at that time was 457:1. Indiana was reported as having the 8th highest ratio in the US.

Survey results, counselor: student ratios, and additional [data](#) surrounding the current state of counseling in Indiana are currently being compiled to be used for future projects.

For more information contact:

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Indiana Department of Education – School Counseling: www.doe.in.gov/sservices/sc.htm

American School Counselor Association: www.schoolcounselor.org

Indiana School Counselor Association: <http://isca-in.org/>

Indiana Association of College Admissions Counseling: www.iacac.net

Indiana Counseling Association – www.indianacounseling.org